

CC Docket Nos 96-45, 98-171, 90-571, 92-237, 99-200, 95-116, 98-170 and NSD File No. L-00-72.

I am opposed to the proposed changes to the Universal Service Fund. I urge the FCC to carefully consider the impact of these changes on consumers before changing the current system. Charging \$1 or more per month regardless of how much or how little we use our phone is not fair. This will greatly increase the cost of phone service and it could impact the ability for myself and others to afford landline and/or wireless service.

The USF was created to make phone service affordable in rural America and was updated to increase the availability of communication services to schools, libraries, rural health centers, educational institutions and low-income individuals in the United States. Now you want to change it and I do not think it is fair to charge everybody \$1 dollar per month regardless of how much or how little they use their wireless phone for interstate calls.

I do not make many calls. To be honest, I hate phones of any shape, size, or design. If I could, I would do without, but because it's considered a necessity, I do without a landline and use a wireless phone only when necessary. I own this cell phone solely for my safety and so others can contact me in case of an emergency.

The proposed change is especially unfair for low-volume users that rely on wireless service for safety and security, and who make few, if any, long distance calls. A contribution system is fair, equitable and nondiscriminatory and should be left alone. Please do not penalize wireless phone customers. Keep this fair. We don't have a blanket income tax on our annual salaries nor do we have the same sales tax on a pack of gum and an automobile, so why should there be a "one size fits all" charge for wireless phones?

I am willing to contribute to the USF, but I should not be penalized for living with less telephone service than "normal." Your website [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov) says that the USF is designed to provide services at "just, reasonable, and affordable rates." To be just and reasonable, charge the people that use the phone and tie up the phone lines.

Your website also says "Be a smart consumer. Shop around, and ask about each telecommunications company's Universal Service charge. Compare the charges and choose a carrier based on your needs." I did--I got an prepaid emergency cell phone. Stick with the equitable rates.